



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Hon. Harry J. Tutunjian
mayorsoffice@troyny.gov

518.270.4401
fax 518.270.4609
www.troyny.gov

Moody's Increases City Bond Rating

Troy reaches Investor Level Status

For Immediate Release
Contact Jeff Buell- 270-4554

(July 7, 2004- TROY)- Mayor Harry Tutunjian announced Wednesday that the City of Troy has had its bond rating increased by Moody's Investors Service to investor status, the highest level in many years. Just eight years ago, the City had the lowest bond rating a municipality can achieve, effectively calling it junk bond status, and raising the rates on borrowing.

The news means the City will be able to achieve better interest rates on bonds, and more importantly market the City as financially stable. Often companies will look at the bond rating of a City prior to doing business with the municipality.

"This news from Moody's transcends politics, particularly in these tough financial times," Tutunjian said. "I want to say congratulations to former Mayor Mark Pattison, and all former City Council members, whose difficult work has led to this tremendous news. The two sides did not always see eye to eye, but the conservative budgeting and belt tightening over the past two plus years, has clearly paid off."

The Moody's upgrade, from Ba1 to Baa3, is the equivalent to the City receiving a credit rating increase. Tutunjian said that the upgrade would do many things, particularly help the City market itself to new investors. According to Moody's: "The rating upgrade reflects a trend of satisfactory financial operations despite the expenditure challenges facing all New York municipalities- health care, pension, and salaries."

"The wave of momentum we have been riding is clear to many," Tutunjian said. "But this news will give us an added tool to go out and tell the world we are ready for investment in a big way. Tough financial times lie ahead across all of New York State, but news like this will help us weather the storm, and bring Troy to new levels."

Tutunjian also thanked Comptroller Deborah Witkowski for her hard work in keeping the City's financial interests in check, especially by harping on the need for controlling costs.

"Debbie has done a fabulous job, and this news today furthers that point," he said. "Everyone involved has done a wonderful job in turning the City of Troy around. This is just one more feather in our cap. This is the type of positive news that needs to be shared with everyone. We need to let people know exactly what is happening here."